



THE PRESIDENT'S STUDENT SERVICE AWARDS (PSSA)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Goals and Objectives

In the United States, one of the distinctive characteristics of our democracy is that each individual can make a difference. The purpose of the President's Student Service Awards is to create a widespread, grassroots recognition system to encourage millions of young Americans to participate in voluntary community service. The Awards were originated by former President George Bush in 1992 and expanded by President Bill Clinton. In April 1997 in Philadelphia at the *Presidents' Summit for America's Future*, Presidents George Bush, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Gerald Ford, along with Mrs. Reagan and Colin Powell, set the goal of getting 2 million young Americans to provide 100 hours of service. The President's Student Service Awards became the official recognition system. In May 2001, President George W. Bush added his full support to PSSA. PSSA is sponsored by The Corporation for National Service, and is administered by the American Institute for Public Service, The Points of Light Foundation, and Youth Service America.

Eligibility

Gold Award: ALL youth, kindergarten through college, who have performed at least 100 hours of service within a 12-month period, are eligible to receive a gold pin and certificate from the President of the United States.

Silver Award: ALL youth, ages 5 to 14 (kindergarten through eighth grade), who have performed at least 50 hours of service within a 12-month period, are eligible to receive a silver pin and certificate from the President of the United States.

Who May Apply?

Individuals may not apply. All organizations that work with young people may apply. These include:

- **Schools and Universities**
- **Public and Nonprofit Organizations**
- **Labor Unions**
- **Places of Worship**
- **Businesses**
- **Clubs and Neighborhood Groups**

The Precedent

PSSA is modeled after the President's Physical Fitness Awards. The President's Physical Fitness Awards are the best example of the power of a grassroots recognition system. 17,000 schools participate, involving over 3 million young Americans. Over one million young people are recognized annually by the President.

The President's Student Service Scholarships

Any high school can present a \$1,000 scholarship to TWO students (juniors or seniors) who have volunteered at least 100 hours of service in a 12-month period. Each scholarship recipient receives \$500 from the Corporation for National Service and is matched by \$500 from the school or community organization.

For More Information – If you have any questions, or need any assistance, please contact us at:

Website: www.student-service-awards.org
This includes simple "how to's"
and any forms or background
materials you need.
E-Mail: pssa.info@verizon.net

Address: President's Student Service Awards
P.O. Box 189
Wilmington, DE 19899-0189
Telephone: 866-550-PSSA (866-550-7772)



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RULES AND GUIDELINES

Certification Process

Schools, colleges, community organizations, places of worship, public and nonprofit organizations, businesses and labor unions, clubs and neighborhood groups may certify all youth who meet the eligibility requirements. Please use the Award Certification Form.

Principals are not required to sign this form.

Only organizations, not individuals, may apply. No student may receive two *President's Student Service Awards* within the same 12-month period. An individual may receive the award annually. For each year individuals meet the hours of service requirement, they are eligible.

The optional student service tracking form may be used to help students track their hours.

Types of Service That Qualify

The awards are designed to recognize voluntary, not paid community service.

All types of service that strengthens communities qualify. The range is as limitless as all the service activities in your area. These include: child care, foster care, mentoring; activities with senior services and senior centers; tutoring, literacy and educational assistance; helping improve the environment; crisis intervention, drug abuse, child abuse, rehabilitation and crime prevention; health care, mental health, the disabled, persons with AIDS; or employment readiness, job training, placement and career exploration.

Where a program mandates voluntary service, such as a school or business program or service learning, these activities are eligible as long as the participants are not paid. Individuals who are paid to perform community service are eligible if they perform voluntary service beyond their paid activity.

Work on political campaigns does not qualify. All lobbying efforts trying to change federal, state or local laws are excluded.

Cost

The cost is \$2 per winner for the pins and certificates plus postage.

Please see the Award Order Form. Award recipients must not be charged for these items.

Deadline

Certification forms will be accepted year-round. Local organizations may select winners and make their award presentations at any time of their choosing year-round.

Visit our Web Site: www.student-service-awards.org

This includes simple "how to's" and any forms or background materials you need.